X-MEN

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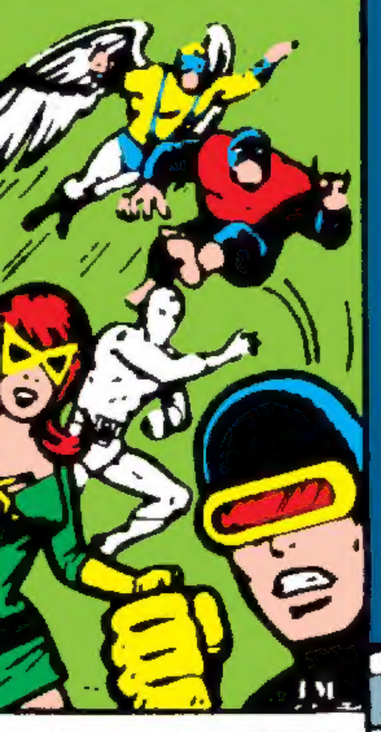

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

X-MEN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WHEN SUNFIRE STRIKES!

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X-MEN

THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

THE COMING OF SUNFIRE!

ANTS! THIS IS A LAND OF ANTS... OF SMUG AND SMIRKING INSECTS!

BUT SOON, THEY SHALL KNOW THE OMINOUS TREAD OF... SUNFIRE!

A SOMEWHAT OUTRE OUTING BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • DON HECK ARTIST
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ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

SPECIAL BULLPEN BUTT-IN:
OUR SINCERE THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO DASHIN' *DONNIE HECK*, FOR PINCH-HITTING THIS MONTH FOR NEFARIOUS *NEAL ADAMS*... WHO'LL BE BACK WITH OUR MERRY MUTANTS *NEXT* ISH!
AND NOW, ON WITH *THIS* ISSUE'S DEFINITELY *DIFFERENT* SAGA....!

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THE MENACE OF MAGNETO IS **ENDED**, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING! BUT FOR THE MUTANT **X-MEN**, OUTCASTS OF A SOCIETY WHICH FEARS AND HATES THEM, THERE CAN BE NO **REJOICING**...NO **RESPITE**! FOR THEM, THERE IS ONLY THE GNAWING DREAD THAT THE **NEXT** EVIL MUTANT WILL BE THE ONE THEY **CANNOT** DEFEAT...THE ONE WHO MAY **DESTROY** THEM, AND THE WORLD THEY SECRETLY **DEFEND**...!

LOOK ALIVE, YOU GLORY HOUNDS!

I JUST GOT A **BOGEY** AT **ELEVEN O'CLOCK!**

HUH? TAR MY FEATHERS IF I'M **WRONG**, BOBBY...

BUT I THINK OL' HANK'S BEEN WATCHIN' **WAR-FLICKS** ON THE TUBE AGAIN!

HE MEANS THAT OUR **MINI-CEREBRO** JUST PICKED UP ANOTHER **MUTANT**, ANGEL!

PERSONALLY, BEAST, I LIKED YOU BETTER AS A ONE-MAN **THESAURUS!**

SCOFF AT MY VERSATILE VOCABULARY AS YOU **WILL**, SCOTTIE!

THE FACT REMAINS, THERE'S AN UNIDENTIFIED **MUTANT** SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF **MANHATTAN!**

AND, FROM THE DATA WHICH **CEREBRO** IS FEEDING BACK, WE'D BETTER HOPE HE'S **FRIENDLY**...

"...BECAUSE IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT HE'S THE MOST **POWERFUL** MUTANT WE'VE YET **ENCOUNTERED!**"

I HAVE WASTED **ENOUGH** TIME IN RECONNOITERING!

IT IS TIME I HURRIED TO MY **TRUE** DESTINATION...

...THE CENTRAL PLAZA OF THE UNITED NATIONS!

THE CEREMONY WHICH I CAME TO HEAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

MR. YOSHIDA IS A SNIVELING, SPINELESS FOOL!

I SHOULD KNOW, ABOVE ALL MEN!

AND SO, I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO!

"HONORED GUESTS ...MY FELLOW DELEGATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN..."

"IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST PLEASURE THAT I FLEW HERE FROM MY NATIVE JAPAN THIS MORNING..."

THAT'S MY KIND OF GUY!

HE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MAYBE THE BIG ONE WAS WORTH IT, AFTER ALL!

I READ THAT MR. YOSHIDA IS ONE OF JAPAN'S GREATEST STATESMEN!

JUST THEN, AS THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES ARE COMPLETED...

AND NOW, IF THIS UNWORTHY PERSON COULD BORROW A GLASS OF WATER...!

A RASPING THROAT IS THE PRICE I PAY FOR EACH FORMAL SPEECH I MAKE!

BUT, IT WAS A GREAT SPEECH, MR. YOSHIDA!

...TO DEDICATE THIS STRIKING NEW MONUMENT TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD!

MAY OUR PLANET'S YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW PEACE FOR AS LONG AS THESE MARBLE FIGURES ENDURE!

YES...A PERFECT SPEECH... FOR A TRAITOR!

WHAT?

WHO SPEAKS...?

I SPEAK!
I... SUNFIRE!
BUT MY HAND SHALL MAKE MY ONLY COMMENT ON THAT MARBLE PERFIDY!
THROOOM!
SSZZZZ
HE BLEW UP THE MONUMENT ...WITH SOME KIND'A HEAT RAY!
IT'S TIME TO SPLIT...
...BEFORE HE DECIDES IT'S TIME FOR TOASTED FLOWER-CHILD!
HEADS UP, HALCYON HEROES!
YOU ARE A NATION OF WEAKLINGS... OF COWARDS!
IS THERE NO ONE WHO WILL DARE FACE SUNFIRE IN BATTLE?
WELL, PAL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT....!
IT'S--ONE OF THE X-MEN-- DEFENDING US!
BUT, I ALWAYS HEARD... THEY WERE CRIMINALS!
HERE'S WHERE WE GIVE THE X-MEN'S TARNISHED REPUTATION A MUCH-NEEDED BOOSTER SHOT!
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OF COURSE, WE WERE *ACTUALLY* HOPING THAT YOU WERE OF A LESS *HOSTILE* PERSUASION!

ANOTHER FEW *RECRUITS*, AND THE X-MEN COULD BECOME THE FIRST MUTANT *BASEBALL TEAM!*

THAT IS THE *LAST* FEEBLE JOKE THAT YOU SHALL *MAKE*, AMERICAN!

WHOOPS!

DIDN'T REALIZE-- YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO *FLY*-- WITH ME ON YOUR BACK--!

THERE ARE *MANY* THINGS YOU DO NOT REALIZE, DOG!

SZZZZZ

PRAY ONLY THAT YOU *SURVIVE* LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN *MORE* OF THEM!

YEEOWWW!

HANK'S IN TROUBLE-- *BAD* TROUBLE!

GOT TO POUR ON *SPEED*--LIKE *NEVER BEFORE!*

IT'S--NOT NECESSARY TO SEND OUT *ANNOUNCEMENTS*, ANGEL--BUT *THANKS!*

ICEMAN--KEEP THAT WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OFF ANGEL'S *BACK*-- TILL HE CAN *DEPOSIT* ME SOMEWHERE!

GOT YOU!!

SHEESH! EVEN HALF-ZONKED, BEASTIE THINKS HE'S QUARTERBACKING OUR LITTLE TRIO!

WELL, LET'S SEE IF THESE FRESH-FROZEN FLYING SAUCERS'LL COOL THINGS DOWN!

WHAT--?

I SEE THE POLICE BELOW--WAITING TO KILL ME IF I DO NOT HEED THEIR WARNING SHOTS!

DO NOT TRY TO DISTRACT ME WITH YOUR FUTILE QUESTIONS, AMERICAN!

WAIT! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG!

WE'RE FELLOW MUTANTS! WE ONLY WANT TO--

BLAST IT! HE'S EVEN OUT-MANEUVERING ME!

FOOLS! DON'T YOU SEE HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE BEFORE MY POWER?

YOU PLAY AT FIGHTING, AS IF IT WERE MERE SPORT--

--WHILE SUNFIRE FIGHTS TO THE DEATH!!

HOLD IT, FELLA! YOU'RE NOT MAKIN' ANY SENSE!

WHY DID YOU DESTROY THAT STATUE --?

A PITY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TEACH YOU JUST HOW SUPERIOR TO YOU I AM, WINGED ONE!

HOLY JUMPIN' HANNAH!

WHAT'S HIS POWER SOURCE, ANYWAY?

HE JUST CLICKS HIS HEELS...AND I'M LEFT WITH EGG ON MY FACE!

MIGHT AS WELL GO SEE IF HANK'S OKAY...!

SOON, BACK AT THE MIDTOWN APARTMENT WHICH THE X-MEN KEEP AS THEIR CITY HQ...

THE BOYS ARE BACK...THANK HEAVENS!

WE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO, WARREN!

IF ONLY WE HADN'T BEEN OUT SHOPPING WHEN THEY LOCATED THAT MUTANT...!

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! I'LL SEE TO THESE STRANGE BURNS ON HANK'S FACE!

THEN YOU KNOW THAT HANK HERE GOT THE WORST OF THE DEAL!

AND AS USUAL, THE PRESS ENDED UP BLAMING THE WHOLE THING ON THE X-MEN!

MAKES ME WISH WE'D GONE STRAIGHT HOME WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM KA-ZAR COUNTRY!

WILL I EVER PLAY THE COMB-AND-TISSUE PAPER AGAIN, MA'AM?

THIS IS SERIOUS, BEAST!

IT'S AS IF YOU'VE BEEN BADLY SUNBURNED...AND YOU'LL NEED LOTS OF REST!

THE X-MEN WILL FIND THE MUTANT CALLED SUNFIRE...

BUT THEY'LL DO IT WITHOUT HENRY C. McCOY!

WHILE, SEVERAL DOZEN BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH...

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, SHIRO!

THANK YOU, UNCLE!

YET, EVEN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, IT ALL SEEMED SOMEHOW...WRONG!

WRONG? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, NEPHEW...?

"NO, UNCLE... I HAVE FORGOTTEN NOTHING!"

"I REMEMBER WELL THE SCENES I NEVER SAW..."

"...THE SEARING ATOMIC BLAST WHICH MADE A SMOULDERING RUIN OF OUR NATIVE HIROSHIMA..."

"...JUST AS I REMEMBER THAT IT MADE A HOPELESS INVALID OF MY MOTHER... MANY MILES FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY...!"

"I REMEMBER THAT SHE DIED A FEW YEARS LATER...ON THE VERY NIGHT I WAS BORN..."

"BUT, MOST OF ALL, I REMEMBER A NIGHT NOT LONG AGO...WHEN YOU TOOK ME TO A CERTAIN PLACE IN HIROSHIMA..."

THESE ARE ALL THAT REMAIN OF THE RUINS, SHIRO!

YES...I KNOW...!

BUT, I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU WISH ME TO TAKE THIS BURNT, BARREN SOIL INTO MY HANDS...!

YOU SHALL SEE!

"...AND THAT YOU, DEAR UNCLE TOMO, HELPED MY FATHER REAR ME TO MANHOOD!"

AAARRHHH!

THEN...I WAS RIGHT!

LISTEN TO ME, NEPHEW!

THE VERY TOUCH OF IT...SEEMS TO SET ME ON FIRE!

I FEEL AS IF...A RAGING FURNACE... BURNED WITHIN MY BREAST!

YOU ARE A MUTANT...AS I ALWAYS SUSPECTED!

POINT YOUR FINGERS EARTHWARD, AND YOU SHALL SEE PROOF OF WHAT I SAY!

YES...I SHALL... BUT, WHAT...?

FIRE! THE BLAZING FIRE OF THE SUN ITSELF...

...HURTLING FROM MY OUTSTRETCHED FINGERTIPS!

THEN, I AM A MUTANT... ONE OF THOSE BORN WITH DORMANT BUT DEADLY POWERS!

DORMANT NO LONGER, BOY!

I...I WILL, MY UNCLE!

I SHALL AVENGE THE INCALCULABLE WRONG DONE MY PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE, THESE MANY YEARS AGO!

NOW SPEAK...SPEAK THE SACRED OATH WHICH I HAVE TAUGHT YOU IN SECRET SINCE CHILDHOOD!

SPEAK!

I SHALL SMITE THE ETERNAL ENEMY... HUMBLE HIM... WITH ALL THE VAST POWERS AT MY COMMAND!

SO DO I, SHIRO YOSHIDA, SWEAR!

WELL SAID, NEPHEW!

ALWAYS I SENSED THAT SUCH POWER WOULD BE YOURS, WHEN YOU WERE COME OF AGE!

SOON, YOU SHALL WIELD IT... IN A WAY THE WORLD SHALL NEVER FORGET!

"BUT FIRST, THERE WERE THE LONG, HIDDEN HOURS OF PRACTICE....!"

YOU STORE AND DISCHARGE THE POWER OF THE SUN ITSELF, SHIRO...

THUS, WHEN YOU STRIKE AT LAST...

YOU MUST WEAR OUR ANCIENT COLORS... AND BE KNOWN AS...

SUNFIRE!

"AND ALWAYS, YOU WERE THERE, UNCLE ...TRAINING ME... AND EVER FANNING THE FLAME OF MY OWN YOUTHFUL HATRED!"

MY HARNESSED POWERS EVEN ENABLE ME TO... FLY!

I AM READY AT LAST... READY TO FACE THE ENEMY!

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...AND, I KNOW THAT THE ENEMY IS...THE *AMERICANS!!*

THEN *MAKE READY*, SHIRO...FOR THE *SUPREME TEST* IS AT HAND!

THE MOMENT WHEN AMERICA IS HUMBLED IN THE EYES OF THE *WORLD!*

...EVEN HERE, NEAR THE *U.N.*, IT WON'T BE *EASY* TO PICK UP THAT MUTANT'S TRAIL!

MAYBE NOT ...BUT COMPARED TO THE BATTLE WE HAD KEEPING THE *BEAST* AT HOME IN BED...

IT'LL HAVE TO BE A *SNAP!*

IN FACT, I THINK WE JUST STRUCK *PAY DIRT!*

ANGEL...I'M GETTING A *STRONG READING* FROM DIRECTLY BELOW!

I'M *GONE*, LITTLE LEADER!

YEESH! I SURE HOPE CYCLOPS KNOWS WHAT HE'S *TALKING* ABOUT!

THE *MOVING CAR* HE WANTED ME TO CHECK OUT IS...

...A *DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE!*

IF WE INTERFERE WITH ONE OF *THOSE*, WELL BE IN *INTERNATIONAL* HOT WATER!

SCOTT...DO YOU THINK OUR CEREBRO UNIT COULD BE *MISTAKEN?*

NOT ONE CHANCE IN A *ZILLION*, JEAN!

BUT, TELL WARREN JUST TO *FOLLOW* THE CAR, FOR THE TIME BEING!

WE'LL DROP BACK *OUT OF SIGHT*...AND YOU CAN KEEP ANGEL IN *MENTAL CONTACT!*

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...AND HERE WE ARE AT *JFK AIRPORT*, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS...

...WHERE WE SEE THE JAPANESE DELEGATE *SABURO YOSHIDA* CLIMBING OUT OF SUSPECT VEHICLE...

...ALONG WITH HIS *BROTHER*...AND ONE *SHIRO YOSHIDA*, HIS NUMBER-ONE *SON!*

THERE WAS A SPREAD ON 'EM IN LAST WEEK'S "*LIFE*", IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERIN', JEANIE!

UH OH! THEY MUST'VE BOARDED ONE OF THOSE *PLANES* DOWN THERE!

BUT I *LOST* 'EM IN THE *CROWD!*

STILL, IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO CHECK EACH PLANE OUT AFTER IT'S *AIRBORNE!*

IF I'M *LUCKY*, MAYBE NOBODY'LL EVEN *SEE* ME--!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT... *PULLING* SENSATION...?

HOLY CROW! WARREN GOT TOO NEAR THE *JET'S INTAKE!*

NOW HE'S REALLY *IN* FOR IT!

WE'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM--IF WE *CAN!*

THAT BLASTED THING IS *SCOOPIN' ME IN*... LIKE IT WAS A *VACUUM CLEANER!*

NOTHING I CAN *DO*... EXCEPT KEEP FIGHTING... TILL THE *END*....!

ICE! IT'S FORMING A *BARRIER* IN FRONT OF ME!

AND JEANIE'S GOT ME *TELEKINETI-CALLY*... I CAN *FEEL* IT!

THEY'VE BAILED ME OUT *AGAIN!*

WHILE, ONLY A FEW METAL-PLATED FEET AWAY...

I TELL YOU, BILL, THERE *WAS* A MAN OUT THERE...A *MASKED* MAN WITH *WINGS!*

MAYBE IT WAS THE *LONE RANGER'S* GUARDIAN ANGEL!

BY THE WAY, FRED, THERE'S A *'SHRINK* FLYING BACK IN *TOURIST* CLASS...!

WITHIN THE HOUR, THE SLEEK SKYBORNE CRUISER REACHES ITS *DESTINATION*...

...THE SPIRALING DOMES AND TOWERS OF THE *NATION'S CAPITAL!*

...SURE GLAD YOU REMEMBERED THAT *ARTICLE* ON YOSHIDA THAT YOU READ, ANGEL!

YEAH...'CAUSE NOW WE KNOW HE'S DUE IN *D.C.* TODAY, TO GIVE A SPECIAL SPEECH BEFORE *CONGRESS!*

SO WHY *YOUR* LONG FACE, CYKE?

I WAS JUST THINKING OF THE INTER-NATIONAL *FALLOUT*, BOBBY...

...IF *ONE* OF YOSHIDA'S PARTY IS REALLY OUT FOR BLOOD...*AMERICAN* BLOOD!

AND SOON, IN A SUITE IN ONE OF THE CITY'S PLUSHEST HOTELS...

OUT THERE IS THE ENEMY, NEPHEW...AND *THIS* IS THE HOUR!

YOU NEED NOT *REMIND* ME, MY UNCLE!

TODAY THE SOFT AND THE DECADENT SHALL *TREMBLE*, AS THEY DID *DECADES* AGO...

...BEFORE THE SYMBOL OF THE *RISING SUN!!*

WHAT KIND OF UNREASONING *TREASON* DO YOU SPEAK?

WHAT...?

SILENCE!

SLAP!

I DARE NOT *GUESS* AT THE FULL *MEANING* OF YOUR WORDS, MY SON!

BUT, THE OLD QUARRELS ARE *DEAD*...AND THEY MUST BE *FORGOTTEN!*

DO YOU *HEAR* ME, UNGRATEFUL ONE?

WITH A SINGLE *BLOW*, I COULD...

NO! HE IS MY *FATHER*...IT WOULD BE *BLASPHEMY!*

BUT, HE SHALL *CHANGE* HIS MIND... *LATER...!*

YES...MY FATHER...!

TIME PASSES...AND OUR SCENE SWITCHES TO THE STATELY CAPITOL...

BUT, INSIDE THE PROUD EDIFICE, ALL IS DEFINITELY NOT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT...AS TWO GRIM FORMS MINGLE WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES AND THE VISITING LADIES' CLUBS...!

SCOTT... ISN'T THAT *SABURO YOSHIDA*, FOLLOWING HIS *SON* INTO THAT SEALED-OFF WING?

THERE'S NOTHING WE *CAN* DO, JEAN... UNTIL AND UNLESS THE ONE WHO'S *SUNFIRE* TIPS HIS HAND!

AND THEN, I ONLY PRAY IT ISN'T *TOO LATE!*

SHOULDN'T WE *SHADOW* THEM...OR *SOMETHING?*

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A NEARBY CLOAKROOM...

SO...THAT WHICH I FEARED IS INDEED TRUE!

MY SON IS THE DOG THEY CALL... SUN-FIRE!

PLEASE STAND ASIDE, MY FATHER!

NO! YOU SHALL NOT DISGRACE YOUR FATHER... AND YOUR COUNTRY...!

YOU ARE TOO OLD... TOO SOFT TO UNDER-STAND!

WHAT I DO, I DO FOR MY COUNTRY!

I WILL SEE TO YOUR FATHER, SHIRO!

NOW GO ...AND DO WHAT YOU CAME TO DO!

THOUGH I HAVE CALLED MY FATHER TRAITOR, IN MY HEART I KNOW HE IS ONLY CONFUSED... MISTAKEN!

HE HAS DWELT TOO LONG AMONG THE AMERICANS, AND HAS FORGOTTEN THE EVIL THEY DID...

...BOTH TO OUR HOMELAND... AND TO MY MOTHER!

BUT, MY UNCLE HAS NOT LET ME FORGET SINCE I WAS BUT AN INFANT UPON HIS KNEE!

AND NOW, I HAVE THE POWER TO ERASE THE STAIN UPON MY NATION'S HONOR!

WHEN THAT PROUD DOME STANDS IN SMOKING RUINS, THE AMERICANS SHALL KNOW THE FULL FURY OF THE RISING SUN!

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ONE SINGLE, SUN-BORN *BLAST* WILL--

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL MY *ANCESTORS*?

THE WINGED *AMERICAN* MUTANT-- *HERE*-- BUT *HOW*--?

A LITTLE *BIRD* TOLD ME, PAL!

THEN YOU SHALL *CURSE* THE DAY THAT YOU *HEEDED* HIS CALL, FOOL!

KA-OOM

MISSED ME--BUT HE SINGED MY WINGS --*BAD*!

TWICE THE ONE CALLED ICEMAN HAS DIVERTED ONE OF MY ATTACKS!

NOW, A *FINAL* BURST, AND--

WAIT! SOMETHING *HALTS* MY FIERY BLAST!

FTAK

NOT *SOMETHING*, BUT *SOMEBODY*... NAMELY, THE EVER-PRESENT *ICEMAN*!

BUT TO *SAVE* MY RECKLESS HIDE, HE HADDA FROST UP MY *WINGS*!

I'M *OUT* OF THIS FIGHT... FOR THE *DURATION*!

HE SHALL *NEVER* DO SO *AGAIN*!

SSZZZZZ

SHEESH! I DIDN'T THROW UP THAT *ICE SHIELD* ANY TOO SOON!

IT'S... *PROTECTIN'* ME...

BUT AS IT *MELTS* ...IT'S TURNING INTO RED-HOT *STEAM!*

THE *HEAT!* I CAN'T... STAND... THE HEAT.....

BOBBY'S *DOWN*... JUST LIKE *WARREN!*

NOW IT'S UP TO *CYCLOPS* AND *MARVEL GIRL* TO CARRY THE BALL.!

YOU'RE STAYING *OUT* OF THIS, LITTLE LADY!

JUST *LEVITATE* ME UP TO THE *CAPITOL DOME*...AND THEN TAKE CARE OF *ANGEL!*

GET 'IM, CYKE!

GET 'IM... FOR *ME*....!

"MAY WE HAVE YOUR *ATTENTION*, PLEASE? PLEASE LEAVE THE CAPITOL, IN AN ORDERLY FASHION....!"

ORDERLY? ARE THEY *KIDDIN'?*

I HEARD THERE'S A *MADMAN* OUTSIDE... GONNA *BLOW UP* THE PLACE!

ANYBODY WHO'S *ORDERLY*... IS *DEAD!!*

HERE GOES, SCOTT... BUT I STILL WISH...

DON'T EVEN SAY IT, GIRL!

FROM HERE ON, IT'S CYCLOPS' SHOW!

JEANIE GOT ME HERE JUST IN TIME!

OUR FIRE-BREATHING FOE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ZEROING IN FOR THE KILL... ON THIS DOME!

I HOPE I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP HIM!

NOW, RAVAGERS OF MY ANCESTRAL HOMELAND...

BUT, THE NEXT SOUL-SCORCHING INSTANT...

KRA-

THE INFERNAL DOME STILL STANDS!

SOME NEW FORCE HALTED MY SOLAR BLASTS!

YOU DESTROYED WITH HEAT... AND NOW YOUR CAPITAL SHALL BE ENGULFED BY IT!

THE POWER OF THE ATOM AND THE POWER OF THE SUN... ARE ONE!

KOW

YET--THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!!

BUT IT *IS* POSSIBLE, FRIEND...

EVERY BIT AS POSSIBLE AS... *FORGIVING YOUR ENEMIES!*

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE STILL FIGHTING A WAR THAT ENDED *DECADES* AGO!

YOU--THE ONE THEY CALL *CYCLOPS!*

BUT, *NO* AMERICAN DOG SHALL DETER ME FROM MY PURPOSE...

NOT *MAN*--AND NOT *MUTANT!!*

FOOL! DID YOU THINK I'D BE *UNPREPARED* FOR ONE LAST, DESPERATE *LEAP?*

NO MATCH... FOR HIS *SPEED!*

WHEN HE *DROPS* ME... IT'LL BE *ALL OVER!*

FTAK!

MY FORCE BEAMS ARE *CANCELLING OUT* HIS... BUT JUST *BARELY!*

:UNNH!:

SOMETHING--PULLING MY *HEAD* BACK--WITH GREAT *FORCE--!*

STILL, AT LEAST *ONE* PHASE OF MY PLAN IS WORKING!

TO GET AT ME, HE'S FORCED TO COME CLOSER... *CLOSER...* UNTIL...

NOW!

YES...OF COURSE...THE *GIRL* ...SHE WHO EVEN NOW *LOWERS* THE X-MAN SAFELY TO THE GROUND!

STILL, SHE HAS ACHIEVED *NOTHING!*

THE CAPITOL SHALL *YET* GO UP IN SUN-SPAWNED *FLAMES!*

IT'S-- *JEAN!!*

THEN, CONSIGN IT TO FLAMES, YOU WHO ONCE WERE MY SON!

YOU-- FATHER!

BUT, ONLY IF YOU ALSO DARE MURDER ONE WHO STANDS UPON IT!

LEAVE THIS PLACE... I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU!

BUT, UNCLE TOMO HAS SHOWN ME THE AMERICANS ARE OUR FOES!

TOMO IS A SICK MAN, SHIRO...FEEDING THE FIRE OF HIS HATRED WITH THE EMBERS OF A LONG-DEAD WAR!

RENOUNCE HIM... LEST HIS DREAMS OF GLORY BECOME A WAKING NIGHT-MARE FOR TWO NATIONS!

PLEASE, MY FATHER...YOUR WORDS MAKE MY HEAD SPIN IN CONFUSION!

DO NOT MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO MEN... TWO WORLDS...!

YES, CHOOSE, MY SON... AND CHOOSE NOW!!

YOU NEED NOT CHOOSE, SHIRO!

I SHALL MAKE THE CHOICE FOR YOU!

KRAK!

FATHER!!

BUT, NOTHING CAN STOP THE LIMP FORM WHICH TOPPLES FROM THE HIGH BALCONY...

...OR THE WHITE-HOT BURST WHICH, AN INSTANT LATER, SNUFFS OUT A LIFE WHICH HAD FED ON HATRED AND HOLOCAUST...!

ZZRAP!

AAARRRAHH!

THEN, BELOW...

FATHER... FATHER...

I...DID NOT MEAN THIS TO HAPPEN...!

I KNOW....!

IF ONLY...I COULD UNDO THE WRONG I HAVE DONE....!

LIVE ONLY... FOR THE FUTURE, SHIRO...NOT FOR THE PAST!

FORGE THE TOOLS OF PEACE...

...FROM THE CHAINS... OF WAR...

...WE'LL WAIT OVER THERE, SON....!

WE...WE MAY AS WELL GO...THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO! AND YET...

SHIRO'S MOTHER WAS CAUGHT IN THE HIROSHIMA BLAST, YOU SAID?

YES...THAT MUST BE WHY HE'S A MUTANT!

IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE REASONED WITH HIM...REACHED HIM IN TIME, SOMEHOW....!

...MAYBE THE NEXT ONE....!

YEAH... MAYBE THE NEXT ONE....!

FIN.